

Introduced by Senators Kehoe and Florez

December 4, 2006

Senate Resolution No. 3—Relative to low-income home energy assistance.

1 WHEREAS, The cost of energy for residential use has been
2 increasing dramatically in the United States and in California; and
3 WHEREAS, Low-income customers are particularly vulnerable
4 to increases in their energy bills for electricity, natural gas, and
5 propane, to both heat and cool their homes during extreme weather
6 conditions; and

7 WHEREAS, The primary federal program assisting low-income
8 families with their energy costs is the Low Income Home Energy
9 Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which provides support both for
10 family utility bill payments and for increased energy efficiency
11 through home weatherization programs; and

12 WHEREAS, Expenditure for LIHEAP is authorized in the
13 amount of \$5.1 billion in the federal budget, of which only \$2.2
14 billion has been appropriated by the Congress for the 2007–08
15 fiscal year, which is not adequate to support the winter heating
16 needs of low-income families for this coming winter of 2006–07;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The federally appropriated amount is not sufficient
19 to begin to meet the urgent public health needs in warm-weather
20 states such as California and Arizona, which have experienced
21 lethal periods of extreme heat that have killed hundreds of
22 vulnerable members of our populations in the past year; and

23 WHEREAS, There exists an extensive network of existing
24 LIHEAP providers who are public and nonprofit agencies in the
25 United States, including California, that could efficiently disburse

1 the increased funds that would result from an increased
2 appropriation under LIHEAP for the public welfare; now, therefore,
3 be it

4 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California,* That California
5 calls on the President and the Congress to increase the federal
6 budget authorization for the federal Low Income Home Energy
7 Assistance Program to \$7 billion dollars (\$7,000,000,000) for the
8 2007–08 fiscal year, and appropriate that entire amount for
9 distribution to the states; and be it further

10 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
11 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
12 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each
13 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the
14 United States.